

*Crime - Republicans*

THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN, FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THE VIEWS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ON H.R. 3, THE "TAKING BACK OUR STREETS ACT OF 1995."

FIVE MONTHS AGO THE CONGRESS OVERCAME MORE THAN SIX YEARS OF GRIDLOCK AND PASSED THE VIOLENT CRIME CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1994 WITH STRONG BIPARTISAN SUPPORT. THIS LAW, WHICH INCLUDED MUCH OF THE PRESIDENT'S LEGISLATIVE ANTI-CRIME PROGRAM, WAS THE RESULT OF MUCH DEBATE AND HARD WORK OVER MANY YEARS. IN FACT, MANY OF ITS PROVISIONS ORIGINATED IN THIS VERY SUBCOMMITTEE. THE 1994 ACT HAD THE ACTIVE SUPPORT OF EVERY MAJOR LAW ENFORCEMENT ORGANIZATION IN THE COUNTRY, AS WELL AS PROSECUTORS, MAYORS, COUNTY EXECUTIVES AND OTHER LOCAL OFFICIALS OF BOTH PARTIES. AND I KNOW FROM MY OWN DISCUSSIONS AND MEETINGS ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CRIME BILL ALL OVER THE COUNTRY THAT THE BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR THE LAW HAS ONLY INCREASED SINCE THAT TIME.

THAT SUPPORT IS BASED ON THE FACT THAT THIS \$30 BILLION, SIX-YEAR VIOLENT CRIME CONTROL ACT WAS THE LARGEST, SMARTEST AND TOUGHEST CRIME BILL IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY. IT ESTABLISHED A COMPREHENSIVE CRIME FIGHTING STRATEGY DESIGNED TO TAKE CONCRETE ACTION TO DEAL WITH THE UNACCEPTABLE LEVELS OF CRIMINAL VIOLENCE IN THIS COUNTRY. IT COMBINED STRONGER POLICING AND TOUGH PUNISHMENT WITH SMART, EFFECTIVE PREVENTION -- A PROGRAM THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS HAD LONG BEEN ADVOCATING. AND IT RECOGNIZED THAT THE BEST ROLE FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN CRIME FIGHTING IS TO

DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN AN EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT WHICH IS ON THE FRONT LINE OF THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

THE VIOLENT CRIME CONTROL ACT WILL PUT AN ADDITIONAL 100,000 POLICE OFFICERS -- AN ALMOST 20% INCREASE -- INTO THE CITIES, TOWNS AND COUNTIES OF THIS COUNTRY. IT MADE "THREE STRIKES AND YOU'RE OUT" FOR REPEAT VIOLENT OFFENDERS THE LAW OF THE LAND AND ESTABLISHED A TOUGH, ENFORCEABLE FEDERAL DEATH PENALTY. IT PROVIDED ALMOST \$8 BILLION FOR PRISONS TO LOCK AWAY VIOLENT OFFENDERS AND ANOTHER \$1.8 BILLION TO PAY COSTS OF INCARCERATING CRIMINAL ALIENS. AND IT INCLUDED OVER \$6 BILLION FOR PREVENTION MEASURES INCLUDING PROGRAMS TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, TO ESTABLISH DRUG COURTS TO IMPOSE MANDATORY TREATMENT ON NON-VIOLENT OFFENDERS AND TO GIVE LOCAL JURISDICTIONS FUNDS TO USE FOR THEIR OWN COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS TO COMBAT JUVENILE CRIMES AND CRIMES AGAINST THE ELDERLY. BY BANNING THE MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF NEW ASSAULT WEAPONS, THE 1994 ACT WILL HELP RID OUR STREETS OF THESE DANGEROUS WEAPONS OF WAR. AND, UNLIKE CRIME BILLS OF THE PAST THAT PROMISED MUCH BUT DELIVERED LITTLE, THE 1994 ACT IS PAID FOR. BY ESTABLISHING THE CRIME CONTROL TRUST FUND, THE ACT ENSURED THAT SAVINGS ACHIEVED THROUGH REDUCTIONS IN THE SIZE OF THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY WOULD BE USED TO FUND THE ANTI-CRIME PROGRAM.

THERE IS STILL MUCH WORK TO BE DONE TO MAKE AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES SAFE. BUT NOTHING SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO JEOPARDIZE THE IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE 1994 ACT.

SINCE PRESIDENT CLINTON SIGNED THE CRIME BILL INTO LAW ON SEPTEMBER 13 OF LAST YEAR, AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ASKED ME TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION, WE HAVE MOVED FORWARD EFFECTIVELY WITH THE SUPPORT OF STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS AROUND THE COUNTRY. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW CRIME ACT IS ONE OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S HIGHEST PRIORITIES AND WE HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THE LAW IS ADMINISTERED AS RAPIDLY AND EFFICIENTLY AS POSSIBLE. WE HAVE TRIED TO MAKE THE PROCESS AS SIMPLE AND NON-BUREAUCRATIC AS POSSIBLE -- AND TO MAKE IT TOTALLY NON-POLITICAL. AS I TRAVEL AROUND THE COUNTRY TO MEET AND TALK WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND OTHER OFFICIALS, I HAVE FOUND OVERWHELMING ENTHUSIASM FOR THE COMMUNITY POLICING PROGRAM TO PUT MORE POLICE OFFICERS TO WORK OUT IN OUR COMMUNITIES WHERE THEY CAN BE MOST EFFECTIVE.

THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES (C.O.P.S.) HAS, IN THESE 3 AND A HALF MONTHS, AUTHORIZED FUNDING FOR OVER 1,000 COMMUNITIES TO PUT ALMOST 10,000 ADDITIONAL COPS ON THE STREETS ALL ACROSS THIS COUNTRY IN URBAN, RURAL AND SUBURBAN AREAS ALIKE. THIS IS ON TOP OF THE \$150 MILLION DOLLARS IN GRANTS THAT WILL ADD 2,080 COPS THROUGH LAST YEAR'S POLICE HIRING SUPPLEMENTAL -- THE C.O.P.S. PILOT PROGRAM. LAST MONTH PRESIDENT CLINTON APPOINTED JOE BRANN, FORMER CHIEF OF POLICE OF HAYWARD, CALIFORNIA, TO BE THE DIRECTOR OF THE C.O.P.S. OFFICE AND HE IS WORKING ON FINALIZING THE COPS F.A.S.T. AWARDS THAT WILL WITHIN WEEKS FUND ADDITIONAL THOUSANDS OF COMMUNITY POLICING OFFICERS FOR AMERICA'S

SMALL TOWNS. OVER THE COMING MONTHS THE REMAINDER OF THE \$1.3 BILLION AVAILABLE FOR THE C.O.P.S. PROGRAM IN FY 95 WILL BE AWARDED.

OTHER PROGRAMS ARE ALSO GOING FORWARD: THE STATE CRIMINAL ALIEN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SCAAP) HAS AWARDED \$41 MILLION DOLLARS TO HELP OFFSET THE COSTS OF CRIMINAL ALIEN INCARCERATION TO THE SEVEN STATES HARDEST HIT BY THIS PROBLEM. STATES ARE IN THE PROCESS OF APPLYING FOR FUNDS TO IMPROVE STATE CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS, AND REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO ADMINISTER THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, DRUG COURTS AND CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMS.

I FIND EVERYWHERE THAT WHAT PEOPLE WANT IN DEALING WITH CRIME IS CONCRETE ACTION NOT POLITICAL RHETORIC. THE COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH ADOPTED BY THE 1994 ACT ALLOWED US TO GET BEYOND THE IDEOLOGICALLY-BASED AND OFTEN DIVISIVE DEBATES OF PAST CRIME BILLS AND ATTRACT WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FROM ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM AND FROM THE MAJORITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. WE MUST NOW GO FORWARD TO BUILD ON THIS ACCOMPLISHMENT. NOTHING WOULD BE MORE OFFENSIVE TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT PEOPLE, STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS AND ORDINARY AMERICANS ALL ACROSS THIS COUNTRY THAN A REVERSION BACK TO PARTISAN AND UNPRODUCTIVE POLITICAL BICKERING ON THE CRIME ISSUE. TO BE SURE, THERE IS MUCH ADDITIONAL WORK THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE. BUT WE SHOULD LOOK AHEAD AND GO FORWARD TOGETHER.

IN SOME RESPECTS THE "TAKING BACK OUR STREETS ACT" DOES STRIVE TO MOVE FORWARD AND BUILD UPON THIS WORK BY DEALING WITH ISSUES NOT

ADDRESSED OR NOT FULLY ADDRESSED IN THE 1994 ACT. THESE AREAS INCLUDE STRENGTHENING FEDERAL DEATH PENALTY PROCEDURES, HABEAS CORPUS AND EXCLUSIONARY RULE REFORM, INCREASED PENALTIES FOR FIREARMS OFFENSES, MANDATORY RESTITUTION FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME, DEPORTATION OF CRIMINAL ALIENS AND LIMITING ABUSIVE PRISONER LITIGATION. WE SUPPORT THE OBJECTIVE OF STRENGTHENING THE LAW IN ALL OF THESE AREAS. WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR VERSIONS OF EACH OF THESE MEASURES AND WE WILL DO SO AGAIN IN A DETAILED VIEWS LETTER THAT WILL SHORTLY BE SUBMITTED TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE. IN THESE AREAS WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE AND STRENGTHEN THE 1994 ACT.

BUT WHILE WE SUPPORT EFFORTS TO ADVANCE OUR ATTACK ON CRIME, WE STRONGLY OPPOSE EFFORTS TO UNDO OR REPEAL THE IMPORTANT GAINS MADE IN LAST YEAR'S LAW. WHILE WE SUPPORT TAKING STEPS TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF CRIME CONTROL, WE OPPOSE EFFORTS TO TAKE US BACK OR REVERSE THE PROGRESS THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE. SUCH AN EFFORT TO REVERSE THESE BIPARTISAN ACHIEVEMENTS THREATENS TO UNDERMINE THE ONGOING WORK OF FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TO MAKE OUR HOMES AND NEIGHBORHOODS SAFER.

H.R. 3 WOULD UNDO A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT PROVISIONS OF THE 1994 LAW WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL TO LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THIS NATION SUCH AS PUTTING 100,000 MORE COPS ON THE STREET AND PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO AVOID LIVES OF CRIME. WE STRENUOUSLY OPPOSE THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL THAT WOULD DRAMATICALLY ALTER AND WEAKEN THE ENACTED PUBLIC SAFETY PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY POLICING ACT,

THE C.O.P.S. PROGRAM, AND THE ENACTED PRISON FUNDING PROGRAM, AND THAT WOULD INDISCRIMINATELY REPEAL MOST OF THE CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS IN THE 1994 ACT. WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE TO REPEAL A PROGRAM TO PUT 100,000 NEW POLICE OFFICERS INTO OUR COMMUNITIES -- A PROGRAM THAT IS IN PLACE AND ALREADY WORKING AND WORKING WELL -- AND REPLACE IT WITH A PLAN TO PASS OUT \$10 BILLION OF TAXPAYER MONEY IN A WAY THAT DOES NOT GUARANTEE EVEN ONE NEW OFFICER ON THE BEAT AND THAT IN FACT WOULD NOT ASSURE ANY SPECIFIC OR CONCRETE GAIN IN PUBLIC SAFETY.

IT WOULD BE SIMILARLY ILL-ADVISED TO SLASH VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE BIPARTISAN CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS OF THE 1994 ACT -- THESE PROGRAMS ACCOUNT FOR LESS THAN 25% OF THE FUNDING UNDER THE ACT. THESE PROGRAMS ARE STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY POLICE, PROSECUTORS AND PARENTS OF BOTH PARTIES WHO REALIZE THAT MORE PRISONS ARE NOT THE SOLE ANSWER TO THE CRIME PROBLEM FACING THIS COUNTRY. PROGRAMS TO KEEP SCHOOLS OPEN AFTER HOURS AND ON WEEKENDS AS SAFE HAVENS, GETTING DRUG OFFENDERS OFF THE STREETS OR BRINGING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS INTO SCHOOLS TO TEACH CHILDREN TO STAY AWAY FROM DRUGS ARE IMPORTANT AND NEEDED COMPLEMENTS TO PUNISHMENT AND PRISONS.

WE STRONGLY SUPPORT MEASURES AIMED AT CRACKING DOWN ON FIREARMS AND VIOLENT OFFENDERS. MANY PROVISIONS IN THE 1994 ACT -- AS WELL AS THE BRADY LAW THAT WAS ENACTED IN 1993 -- TARGETED SUCH OFFENDERS. PROVISIONS SUCH AS FIVE AND TEN-YEAR PRISON TERMS FOR FIREARMS POSSESSION BY OFFENDERS WITH ONE OR TWO PRIOR CONVICTIONS FOR VIOLENT FELONIES OR SERIOUS DRUG OFFENSES, SUPPLEMENTING THE

15-YEAR TERM PROVIDED FOR OFFENDERS WITH THREE OR MORE PRIOR CONVICTIONS OF THIS TYPE UNDER THE ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL STATUTE, PROVIDE MEANINGFUL FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT. BY CONTRAST, WE BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSAL IN H.R. 3 TO FEDERALIZE EVERY CRIME COMMITTED WITH A FIREARM IN THIS COUNTRY IS A FALSE PROMISE THAT WILL DO LITTLE TO MAKE OUR STREETS SAFER WHILE DOING MUCH TO INCREASE THE ALREADY ABUNDANT LEVEL OF CYNICISM ABOUT THE EFFICACY OF FEDERAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

FINALLY, ALTHOUGH NOT INCLUDED IN H.R.3, WE REMAIN CONCERNED ABOUT REPORTS THAT SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE INTENT UPON REPEALING THE BAN ON SEMI-AUTOMATIC ASSAULT WEAPONS THAT WAS ENACTED AS PART OF THE VIOLENT CRIME CONTROL ACT LAST YEAR. SUCH A REPEAL WOULD JEOPARDIZE THE LIVES OF COUNTLESS POLICE OFFICERS AND CIVILIANS BY PERMITTING THE CONTINUED MANUFACTURE OF THESE WEAPONS. TO REPEAL THIS COMMON SENSE CRIME FIGHTING LAW WOULD BREAK A SOLEMN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA'S LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS -- AND I BELIEVE THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT PEOPLE AROUND THE COUNTRY WOULD OVERWHELMINGLY VIEW IT AS A BETRAYAL OF THEIR TRUST.

IN SUM, THERE ARE MANY PROVISIONS IN H.R. 3 THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AND TO THE NATION'S ANTI-CRIME EFFORTS BUT THERE ARE OTHERS THAT WOULD UNDERMINE AND BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO THE WORK OF OUR POLICE AND OUR COMMUNITIES WHO ARE FIGHTING SO HARD TO FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME. WE SUPPORT THOSE PROPOSALS IN THE BILL THAT WILL STRENGTHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND WILL WORK WITH THIS

SUBCOMMITTEE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS TO CONTINUE THESE BIPARTISAN EFFORTS. BUT WE WILL STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY ATTEMPT TO REVERSE THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE TO PUT MORE POLICE ON THE STREETS, TO PUT MORE VIOLENT OFFENDERS BEHIND PRISON BARS AND TO ENHANCE OUR CRIME PREVENTION CAPABILITIES.

THANK YOU. I WILL BE HAPPY TO TAKE ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

Crime - Republicans

## ■ Congress: House hearing begins drive to shift spending from social programs to prisons, law enforcement. Battle over assault-weapons ban looms.

By RONALD BROWNSTEIN  
TIMES POLITICAL WRITER

WASHINGTON—In an epic legislative struggle that nearly capsized his presidency, President Clinton last summer squeezed out a nail-biting victory on a six-year, \$30-billion measure to fight crime. With congressional hearings that begin today, Republicans begin an aggressive drive to dismantle that legislation and recast it in a more conservative image.

After a fall election campaign in which tough promises on fighting crime helped to drive the historic GOP gains, Republicans are poised to refight the battles on spending priorities that they lost last summer, and force onto the agenda long-sought conservative legal reforms that Democrats kept out of last year's legislation.

In both chambers, Republicans are provoking major confrontations with Democrats by proposing to divert billions of dollars in social service "crime prevention" programs included in last year's measure to prisons and law enforcement. At the same time, the GOP has taken aim at Clinton's top priority by proposing to restructure the new federal aid for law enforcement in a manner that would make it impossible for the President to fulfill his signature promise to add 100,000 police officers to the nation's streets.

"The sharpest points of conflict will be over cops in the street and the prevention programs," said Rep. Bill McCollum (R-Fla.), who chairs the House Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on crime and criminal justice, which begins hearings on the bill today.

Even so, the biggest problem for the GOP may be not the Democratic opposition, but restraining the most conservative elements of its own coalition. Hoping to streamline action on the legislation, Republican leaders said they want to put off any effort to repeal the ban on assault weapons included in last year's anti-crime legislation.

But officials at the National Rifle Assn.—whose campaign support was critical to the GOP gains last fall—said they have no intention of waiting. "Our priority is reversing the gun ban that was passed in the crime bill," said Tanya K. Metaksa, chief lobbyist for the NRA. "We are going to work very hard to put a repeal on any crime bill that comes out of Congress."

1-19-95

Believing that public opinion strongly supports restrictions on assault weapons, the White House and congressional Democrats are eager to frame the crime debate as a fight over guns. But beyond that, their strategy for blunting the GOP challenge remains less certain.

While the Administration is focused on protecting Clinton's promise of 100,000 new police officers, House Democrats are circulating a letter urging him to threaten a veto against substantial cuts or elimination of crime prevention programs. Some key Administration strategists, though, are leery of being drawn into a debate in which Republicans are championing tough enforcement measures and the President is defending social programs.

Meanwhile, Democrats are divided internally over GOP proposals to limit Death Row appeals and loosen restrictions on the introduction of improperly seized evidence in criminal proceedings.

"It would be fantasy to believe we have a consistent line here," said one Democratic congressional aide.

Like Clinton and President George Bush before him, congressional Republicans are likely to learn that promising a crime bill is easier than passing one.

Republicans still have to navigate differences between House and Senate proposals, potential divisions with party moderates who backed the final bill last year, and the prospect of a presidential veto. Indeed many Democrats say they believe that the party's best hopes of influencing the bill may depend on Clinton's willingness to wave his veto pen at the GOP.

The White House is "leery of threatening vetoes, but I think you will find some pretty strong language on defending the bill" in the State of the Union [Address], said Rep. Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.), the ranking Democrat on the crime and criminal justice subcommittee.

In almost all respects, the debate that begins today simply picks up where last summer's tumultuous legislative struggle ended. In late August, Congress completed six years of argument by clearing a huge bill that banned assault weapons; imposed life imprisonment on three-time convicted felons; toughened provisions for tracking released sex offenders and showered billions of dollars on prison construction,

GOP Launches New Offensive on Anti-Crime Measure

grants to cities to hire police officers and a diverse array of crime prevention programs.

But that victory came only after a coalition of Republicans and Democrats opposed to gun control defeated a procedural rule that would have allowed for the bill's final passage on the House floor last August. That defeat forced Democrats to accept a series of Republican demands to shift money from prevention to law enforcement and prison construction and to toughen sentencing measures opposed by civil libertarians.

To a significant extent, Republicans are now pushing to write into law the negotiating positions that Democrats would not accept last summer. This battle will begin in the House, where Republicans laboring under the promise of completing action on their "contract with America" within 100 days are planning much quicker action than the Senate. The Senate Judiciary Committee does not plan hearings on the crime bill until late next month.

Above all, the 1994 anti-crime measure was shaped by the complex internal cross-pressures of the Democratic political coalition: It balanced billions of dollars in spending on prisons and police officers sought by moderates with a raft of new social programs—dubbed "crime prevention" programs—aimed at minority and liberal legislators.

In their bill, House Republicans propose to upend that balance. The bill would substantially increase funding for prison construction and eliminate most of the original measure's \$7 billion in prevention programs—which ranged from funds to provide after-school activities in troubled neighborhoods to broad discretionary grants for cities to experiment with coordinated anti-crime strategies. (Only a \$1.8-billion program to deter and prosecute violence against women would be spared by the GOP.)

The Republicans also would eliminate the original measure's \$8.8-billion program of matching grants intended to encourage local communities to hire thousands of new police officers during the next six years.

Instead, the GOP proposes to fold both programs together into a single \$10-billion "law enforcement block grant" for cities. Cities would have broad discretion to use the funds to hire or equip police officers, increase security at schools or fund prevention programs like those included as specific grants in last year's bill.

Administration officials staunchly oppose the idea because the block grant would

show money on cities with relatively few guidelines—and, not incidentally, deny Clinton any prospect of fulfilling his 1992 promise to spur hiring of 100,000 new police officers.

One House Republican legislative aide acknowledged "it would sound naive to say that" the desire to deny Clinton success on the police program "was not a factor."

For his part, McCollum acknowledged that the block grant approach involved a "trade off" that cities may misuse the money—as many did in buying exotic weaponry with grants from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration in the 1970s. But, on balance, he argued, "giving cities maximum flexibility is the thing to do so every community is treated fairly."

Beyond shifting resources, the Republicans are also pushing measures to limit appeals in federal courts from prisoners on Death Row and to reform the "exclusionary rule," which bars prosecutors from introducing evidence seized improperly.

Republicans have revived a provision from last year's measure that would establish federal penalties for any crime committed with a gun, though in somewhat narrower form. And they are pushing proposals to make it easier to deport non-citizens convicted of serious crimes—and more difficult for convicts to press lawsuits challenging prison conditions.

Even Democrats like Schumer conceded that the GOP is likely to prevail, at least in the House, on these measures. For Republicans, the joker in the deck is the volatile issue of gun control, which could derail their prospects of rapid action on the bill.

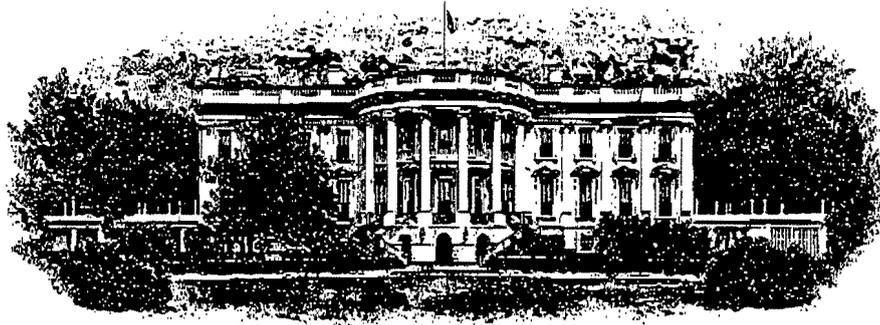
McCollum said "it is a given" that an amendment to repeal the assault-weapon ban will surface on the House floor sometime this session. But, he added, the GOP leadership would prefer that the vote come on some other vehicle than the crime bill.

It remains extremely uncertain, though, whether the NRA will agree to separate the issues—especially since that could give Clinton a cleaner shot at vetoing a repeal of the assault-weapon ban.

The NRA's voice promises to be formidable in the coming session.

In the last election, Metaksa noted, the organization helped to elect so many gun-control opponents that they now count 224 of the 435 House members as supporters.

"It is my view that we hopefully have a majority" against gun control in the House, Metaksa said. "That is, if we haven't been misled."



# FAX COVER SHEET

Office of Mark Gearan  
Director of Communications

Date: 8/18

Number of Pages (w/cover) \_\_\_\_\_

To: Bruce Reed

From: Rahm Emanuel

FAX Number: 456-7431

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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# THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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WILLINGTON WEBB

August 2, 1994

The Honorable Robert Dole  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Dole:

As Republican mayors within The U.S. Conference of Mayors we write to urge passage of the conference agreement on the crime bill. It will provide needed help to our cities.

Last fall a bi-partisan group of mayors worked with police chiefs to draft the National Action Plan to Combat Violent Crime. Many of the elements of that plan are included in the crime bill:

- \* Funding for 100,000 additional police officers, with local flexibility in the use of funds;
- \* Funding to increase the capacity of correctional facilities and provide alternative forms of incarceration;
- \* Strong prevention measures to assist us in addressing the root causes of crime;
- \* Enhanced penalties for a variety of violent crimes;
- \* Strengthened federal drug control efforts.

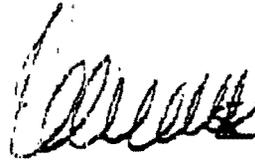
Crime and violence are problems in all of our cities -- urban and suburban, large and small, in every region of the country. The conference agreement provides important help to all of us, important tools in our efforts to prevent and control crime. While there may be items in the bill that some of us might not like, the bill, on the whole, will be very good for cities.

As the elected officials closest to the people, we know that crime has been and will continue to be the most serious concern of our citizens. They are looking to all of us for help, the kind of help that we can deliver through this

Sincerely,



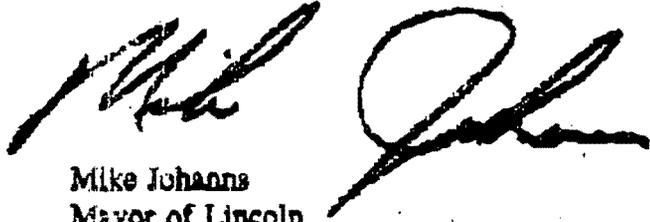
Victor Ashe  
Mayor of Knoxville  
President



Gregory S. Lashutka  
Mayor of Columbus  
President, National Conference of Republican  
Mayors and Municipal Elected Officials



Richard Riordan  
Mayor of Los Angeles



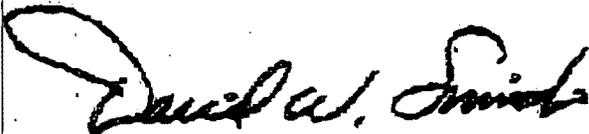
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Louise Gardner  
Mayor of Jefferson City



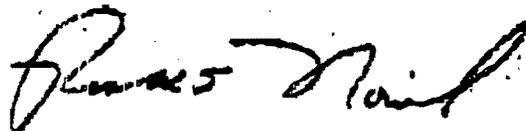
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